



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/706,939	11/14/2003	Francoise Arnaud	244426US41DIV	7418
22850	7590	06/06/2005	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			BAHTA, KIDEST	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2125	

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/706,939

Applicant(s)

ARNAUD ET AL.

Examiner

Kidest Bahta

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/16/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

RD

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-35 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Strevey et al. (U.S. Patent 6,035,305).

Regarding claims 1, 11 and 29, Strevey discloses that means for describing a set of technical objects (Abstract; i.e., ...product information object), each technical object **either** representing a product function (Abstract; i.e., a product information object ...functional tests) **or** describing an implementation method for the product function, the set of technical objects representing manufacturing options of the industrial product (column 2, lines 35-40; i.e., the product information to produce a computer program that validates product selection options and configures a product is provided); means for storing and updating a definition of each technical object (abstract; i.e., Information pertaining to selected objects and their configuration is stored in a database. Changes can be made directly to the information stored in the database) and of its inter-relations with other of the technical objects in the product configuration (column 7, lines 34-42, column 9, lines 14-30) said definition comprising an expression of rules and constraints (Abstract); and means for data input (column 7, lines 1-3) and means for interactively and dynamically using said means for storing and updating during said configuration of

Art Unit: 2125

the product (column 3, lines 30-40; column 18, lines 35-43, column 19, lines 1-24; Fig. 11; i.e., A user creates a graphical representation of the product configuration options, and enters information pertaining to each of the graphical objects. The invention allows a user to create a Knowledge Map containing the product configuration quickly, efficiently, and accurately. Furthermore, modifications to the Knowledge Map representation are also made efficiently and accurately. The Knowledge Map provides a customer with a well organized description of the available options when determining a desired configuration of a complex product, such as a commercial aircraft).

Regarding claims 2 and 12 Strevey discloses that each technical object represents either a function of an aircraft **or** describes an implementation method of the aircraft function to create an aircraft configuration (column 3, lines 30-40).

Regarding claims 3, 4, 13, 14 and 21-28, Strevey discloses wherein the knowledge management module is configured to manage technical objects each representing an aircraft function (abstract), wherein the contract management module is configured to manage fleet configurations of aircraft (Abstract; column 14, lines 35-40, Fig. 2. i.e., a computer base method of collecting, structuring and displaying product configuration information); wherein the administration module is configured to manage user profiles (Fig. 5A, Fig. 8 to Fig. 11), and wherein the mass management module is configured to manage mass of a customized configuration from data supplied from the contract management module (column 9, lines 1-14).

Regarding claims 5 and 15, Strevey discloses the industrial product is considered as a set of functions in a functional approach (Abstract).

Regarding claims 6 and 16, Strevey discloses that the contract management module work in a connected **or** disconnected mode (column 3, 11-22; i.e., the system automatically maintains and verifies predefined constraints regarding the creation of a Knowledge Map. This includes verifying that a hard called-out option identifier associated with a graphical product object on a Knowledge Map is not used twice and the system automatically retrieves the product information and produces a set of rules for use by a rules-based computer program to produce product configuration data; it is inherent that the system is connected mode sine it maintains, verifies and corrects automatically).

Regarding claims 7, 17 and 33, Strevey discloses technical object oriented configuration is used in which the options and corresponding implementation methods are selected directly in a list sorted by *at least one of* ATA chapter, job category, and sales policy, the selection being made either individually globally using a global procedure that joins a possible application and a weight to a set of options in a same functional domain (column 20, lines 34-40; column 14, lines 35-40).

Regarding claims 8 and 18, Strevey discloses in the means for processing a functional oriented configuration is used that supplies a functional approach to directly select technical objects, specifying required properties of a functional characteristic (column 1, lines 41-61).

Regarding claims 9 and 19, Strevey discloses allows a contract manager to start a configuration checking process at any time (column 3, lines 12-40, i.e., .... the system automatically maintains and verifies predefined constraints regarding the creation of a

Knowledge Map. This includes verifying that a hard called-out option identifier associated with a graphical product object on a Knowledge Map is not used twice).

Regarding claims 10, 20 and 30-32, Strevey discloses industrial product (fleet) is an aircraft and helicopters (it is inherent that the computer base system and method can implemented for a plurality of complex product such as aircraft, see abstract and, column 3, lines 22-40. Note: the aircraft is a machine or a device, such as airplane, helicopter or vehicle.), the fleet is an automobiles (it is inherit that the computer program implemented for aircraft can also applied to the automobile).

Regarding claims 34 and 35, Strevey discloses means for updating said fleet by adding or removing a vehicle and aircraft (column 7, lines 51-60); and means for managing a plurality of fleets and updating the plurality of fleets when a vehicle is transferred from one fleet to another fleet (column 7, lines 51-60).

### ***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed Kidest Bahta whose telephone number is 571-272-3737. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard can be reached on 571-272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2125

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application information Retrieval IPAIRI system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PMR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAG system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kidest Bahta

May 31, 2005